

School Board. Mrs. Serrano also volunteered in more local settings, from planning the Le Grand Community Day and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Dinner, to serving on the Plainsburg Election Board and helping the Plainsburg Library. Additionally, Mrs. Serrano was a regular accompanist and choir singer at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, where she became the local go-to pianist and organist for weddings and funerals.

Mrs. Serrano was recognized for her accomplishments and service on numerous occasions. In 1994, she and her husband were awarded the State of California Governor's Small Business Award for Small Business Person of the Year. In 2008, they were also recognized as Le Grand Community Day Citizens of the Year. In 2014, the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation at California State University, Fresno selected Mrs. Serrano as a "Common Threads Honoree," honoring her for community service and philanthropic endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and achievements of Mrs. RoseAnn Burkart Serrano. The Merced community mourns Mrs. Serrano's passing, but rejoices in her lasting impact and legacy. She could always tell when someone needed her help or a smile, and she was always willing to extend her hand in friendship and open her heart with compassion. Her wisdom, mentorship, and persevering spirit continue to inspire her family and countless others to strive for excellence and serve their communities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIÉRREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber for Roll Call vote 367 on Thursday, July 13, 2017. Had I been present, I would have voted No on Roll Call vote 367.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2810) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose the Perry amendment, that would strike section 336 of the National Defense Authorization Act bill under consideration by the House.

Section 336 is a commonsense and essential provision that simply acknowledges the fact that climate change is an urgent and direct threat not only to our national security, but

also to our armed forces and our military installations around the world. This amendment would weaken our national security by preventing our military from planning and preparing to best meet these threats.

Despite the consensus view of the world's climate scientists that human actions are accelerating climate changes through our excessive carbon emissions, there continue to be some Members of this body that hope if we don't assess the threat too closely, it will go away.

As Members of this body, we have sworn to protect the public welfare from all threats, foreign and domestic. And make no mistake, our changing climate—fueled by humanity's enormous carbon emissions—is exactly such a threat.

But don't take my word for it. The words of Defense Secretary James Mattis that are included in the text of this bill are instructive, and deleting them through this amendment will make them no less true. He said, "I agree that the effects of a changing climate—such as increased maritime access to the Arctic, rising sea levels, desertification, among others—impact our security situation . . . [and] it is appropriate . . . to incorporate drivers of instability that impact the security environment . . . into [our] planning."

And as former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army Gordon Sullivan has stated: "Climate change is a national security issue. We found that climate instability will lead to instability in geopolitics and impact American military operations around the world."

The bipartisan language of section 336 goes on to state that, "a three-foot rise in sea levels will threaten the operations of more than 128 United States military sites, and it is possible that many of these at-risk bases could be submerged in the coming years."

For my district in South Florida, we don't have to look to the future to see the threat posed by rising temperatures. Climate change is a threat today. Sea levels have already risen nine inches in the last several decades and, according to FIU's Sea Level Solutions Center, we could see up to another six inches of sea level rise in just over a dozen years.

Today "king tides" cause flooding in low-lying communities several times a year. We cannot afford another six inches, let alone another three feet of ocean water. And our marine ecosystems and corals are also under attack from increased acidification caused by carbon dioxide absorption in ocean waters.

As Members of Congress, we have a duty to the taxpayers of this country not only to protect our communities from the worst effects of climate change, but also to ensure that we spend wisely on national defense and international assistance for humanitarian and disaster response.

It is therefore imperative that our military leaders be allowed to assess the vulnerabilities to our military installations and ensure we build in resiliency so that our military is ready to meet the challenges ahead. Simply put, we should give our military leaders the tools they need to protect the American public.

Section 336 does exactly that and this amendment must be rejected.

Whether out of concern for our national defense, our public health, our environment, the economic well-being of our communities, or for all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues to oppose this ill-advised amendment.

RECOGNIZING OUR NATION'S COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROFESSIONALS DURING PRETRIAL, PROBATION AND PAROLE SUPERVISION WEEK 2017

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 14, 2017

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the nation's community corrections professionals and the vital role they play in enhancing public safety throughout the United States. In honor of the invaluable contributions of these dedicated public servants, the American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) and its associated members have designated the week of July 17 through 23 "Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2017." I thank the thousands of men and women who perform these important public safety duties, and urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in support of APPA's week-long recognition efforts this year.

In my congressional district, the nation's capital, thousands of women and men serve as pretrial, probation and parole officers or administrators. As public servants, these constituents, along with many other Americans, commit themselves on a daily basis to helping improve the lives of those involved in the criminal justice system. The work of these professionals ultimately results in stronger and safer communities for all.

Community corrections professionals are responsible for the supervision of adult and juvenile offenders in communities throughout our nation. These trained professionals go above and beyond the call of duty by connecting their clients to supportive services, community-based resources, employment opportunities, housing programs and other evidence-based practices that help individuals successfully complete supervision and reenter society. Community corrections professionals strive to provide these services and support, while simultaneously providing client surveillance, crime prevention and restorative justice.

In honor of Pretrial, Probation and Parole Supervision Week 2017, I take the opportunity to recognize those who carry out community corrections and supervision services here in the District of Columbia, including the officers and professionals of the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia (CSOSA).

CSOSA and the Pretrial Services Agency for the District of Columbia (PSA) are dedicated to reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety in the nation's capital. CSOSA and PSA are recognized as model community supervision entities because of their use of evidence-based practices and community partnerships.

On any given day, CSOSA is responsible for supervising approximately 11,000 individuals on probation, parole or supervised release, while PSA supervises over 17,000 defendants over the course of a year. Charged with having to balance issues of public safety with social services and reentry support, the employees of CSOSA and PSA help to enhance the security of everyone who lives, works or visits the District.

Mr. Speaker, again, I extend my gratitude to these public servants for their commitment,